

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for alternately expressing a color-memorizing photochromic function in a toy element, which comprises

arranging (1) a color-changing means under a contacted or non-contacted condition, which contains at least one of an ultraviolet ray absorbent and a light-shading pigment capable of shading at least ultraviolet rays,

to (2) a toy element comprising a photochromic layer which maintains a coloring state by developing a color through the irradiation of ultraviolet rays or sunlight containing ultraviolet rays and changes into decolorizing state through its decolorization by the irradiation of visible light,

wherein the coloring state is visible in well-lighted areas,

wherein said color-changing means changes said photochromic layer of the coloring state into decolorizing state by cutting off ultraviolet rays of sunlight and thereby effecting irradiation of visible light, and maintains the changed state, and

wherein said photochromic layer contains a diaryl ethene photochromic compound,

so as to express a function to memorize and maintain coloring and decolorizing states alternately.
2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended): An alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy comprising:

a toy element comprising a photochromic layer which contains a diaryl ethene photochromic compound, maintains a coloring state by developing a color through the irradiation of ultraviolet rays or sunlight containing ultraviolet rays and changes into decolorizing state through its decolorization by the irradiation of visible light; and

a color-changing means which contains at least one of an ultraviolet ray absorbent and a light-shading pigment capable of shading at least ultraviolet rays, changes said photochromic compound of the coloring state into decolorizing state by cutting off ultraviolet rays of sunlight and thereby effecting irradiation of visible light, and maintains the changed state,

wherein the coloring state is visible in well-lighted areas, and

wherein a function to memorize and maintain coloring and decolorizing states alternately is expressed by arranging said color-changing means under such a condition that it is contacted or non-contacted with said photochromic layer.

4. (original): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 3, wherein said diaryl ethene photochromic compound is included in microcapsules.

5. (original): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 3, wherein said photochromic layer is any one of a printing or coating layer, a printing image and a writing image, which contains at least said diaryl ethene photochromic compound and a binder resin.

6. (previously presented): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 3, wherein said photochromic layer is a molding prepared by integrally blending said diaryl ethene photochromic compound with a thermoplastic resin.

7. (previously presented): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 3, wherein said color-changing means is a sheet-shaped molding prepared by integrally blending at least one of said ultraviolet ray absorbent and said light-shading pigment capable of shading at least ultraviolet rays with a transparent plastic.

8. (previously presented): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 7, wherein a rapping image is arranged inside of said sheet-shaped molding.

9. (withdrawn): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 3, wherein said color-changing means is any one of a printing or coating layer, a printing image and a writing image, in which at least one of said ultraviolet ray absorbent and said light-shading pigment capable of shading at least ultraviolet rays is fixed in a dissolved or dispersed state to a binder resin.

10. (withdrawn): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 9, wherein any one of a printing or coating layer, a printing image and a writing image is directly arranged on said photochromic layer of a toy element.

11. (withdrawn): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 9, wherein any one of said printing or coating layer, said printing image and said writing image is arranged on a transparent plastic sheet.

12. (withdrawn): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 3, wherein said color-changing means is in the form of plastic or fluid material in which at least one of said ultraviolet ray absorbent and said light-shading pigment capable of shading at least ultraviolet rays is dissolved or dispersed.

13. (withdrawn): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 3, wherein said color-changing means is a cloth constituted from transparent fibers prepared by fixing at least one of said ultraviolet ray absorbent and said light-shading pigment capable of shading at least ultraviolet rays on the surface or by blending therewith.

14. (withdrawn): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 3, wherein said color-changing means is a visible light irradiator whose main light generation range is in the visible light.

15. (original): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 3, wherein said coloring state is changed by an ultraviolet ray irradiator which irradiates ultraviolet rays.

16. (original): The alternately color-memorizing photochromic toy according to claim 3, wherein a general purpose dyestuff or pigment is allowed to coexist in said photochromic layer.